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Xenotransplantation should be banned regardless of the species of animal being considered. Pigs are not any safer than nonhuman primates: witness swine influenza, the Porcine Endogenous Retroviruses (PERVs), the Australian paramyxovirus; a novel strain of Hepatitis E, found in US pig herds, and the new Malaysian "Nipah" virus that has devastated humans and pigs alike. (The influenza virus of 1918, which resembled a common swine flu, killed more people in modern history than any other epidemic including AIDS and the Black Plague; and PERVs, present throughout the pig genome, have infected human cells in vitro)

- The FDA violated the national Environmental Policy Act by failing to perform an environmental impact statement before allowing clinical xenotransplantation experiments
- Xenotransplantation is receiving substantial public (and private) financing, without adequate public debate. The FDA should not use taxpayer dollars to develop xenotransplantation without the public's consent
- There are safer, more cost-effective, and humane alternatives to xenotransplantation that are not being explored by regulatory authorities.

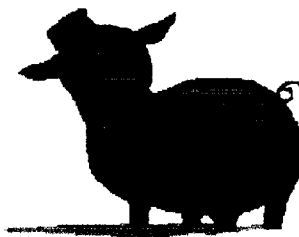
These include investing heavily in preventive medicine programs to reduce the need for transplants of all kinds, and increasing the pool of human organs as many European countries have successfully done through legislative schemes

- The Department of Health and Human Services should ban xenotransplantation, from all nonhuman species immediately.

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